

## New or Rare Malayan Plants.

SERIES VII.

By H. N. RIDLEY.

**Ormosia penangensis** n.sp. (*Leguminosae*). A big tree, 50 to 60 feet tall. *Leaves* glabrous, 6 inches long, with a slender petiole an inch long: leaflets 7, elliptic-lanceolate, acute, base cuneate, pale beneath, nerves and reticulations very fine, 3 inches long,  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inch wide; petiolule  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch long: lower leaflets smaller. *Inflorescence* racemose; racemes numerous, subterminal, 4 inches long. *Flowers* large, as those of *O. macrodisca*, Bak., distant; pedicels  $\cdot 50$  inch long. *Calyx*  $\cdot 3$  inch long, red, puberulous, base broad; lobes equal, ovate, obtuse. *Corolla*  $\cdot 5$  inch long; petals obovate, rounded at apex, clawed; standard broad. *Stamens* glabrous, free-exserted, incurved. *Ovary* cylindric, golden-silky: style glabrous. *Fruit* not seen.

PENANG. Government Hill at Grace Dieu, altitude 2000 feet, (*Mohammed Haniff*).

This fine tree resembles the rare *Ormosia macrodisca*, Bak., at first sight, but the flowers are in racemes, instead of panicles and the ovary cylindric and golden silky.

**Koompassia excelsa** Taub. (*Abaurea excelsa* Becc.) The flowering and fruiting of the well-known Tapang tree of Borneo is so rare an event that it is worthy of record here. During his stay in Borneo Beccari obtained two sprays of flowers which are probably the only known specimens in existence in any herbaria. He did not obtain fruit, but was told it was not winged; and apparently for this reason he separated it from the genus *Koompassia*. The trees were all in fruit at the time of my visit to Sarawak in January 1915; and my attention was called to it by various residents there. No one, not even the oldest resident nor the Dyaks, had ever seen the tree in fruit before; and no seedlings had ever been met with in the forests; so that it appears that it only flowers and fruits at very long intervals of time. When the fruit is nearly ripe it takes on a reddish colour giving the whole top of the tree a colour brilliant enough to be conspicuous from afar. The fruit almost exactly resembles that of *Koompassia malaccensis*, the well-known Kumpas tree of the Malay Peninsula, but is slightly smaller; and the peculiar screw twist at the base of the thin flat winged one seeded pod of that plant is less complete in *K. excelsa*.

*K. malaccensis* Maing., which is also in fruit in Singapore in January, is a pretty regular annual flowerer, and its pods always remain green and never take on the red colour of *K. excelsa*, Taub., but when they dry become pale brown.



**Eugenia salictoides** sp. nov. (*Myrtaceae*). A bush with brown stems. *Leaves* coriaceous, willow-like, lanceolate, acuminate at both ends, apex obtuse, 4 inches long, .5 inch wide; nerves very numerous, parallel, fine, keel elevate; petiole slender .25 inch long. *Panicle* short, 2 inches long; flower buds pyriform, nearly sessile, gradually narrowed to the base from the apex, about .5 inch long. *Calyx*-lobes 4, rounded. *Petals* oblong, obtuse, small, .1 inch long, caducous separately. *Stamens* very many. *Fruit* globose, crowned with the persistent calyx lobes, pithy white, on pedicels .75 inch long, the whole panicle lengthening in fruit. When dry the fruit is about .25 inch long.

PAHANG. Banks of the Tahan river and on gravelly islands (*Ridley* 2,647 and 16,396).

I originally collected this plant in fruit in the first Tahan expedition and referred it from description to *E. Heyneana* Wall. Having since seen specimens of this latter plant in the Kew Herbarium, I observe that the Pahang plant is quite distinct. It belongs to the section *Jambosa* and is one of the group of plants that is so well represented in the banks of the rapid flowing rocky streams of the Malay Peninsula and Borneo in which the leaves are distinctly willow-like.

**Cordia premnifolia** sp. nov. (*Boraginaceae*). A tree, with young branches, petioles and nerves on the leaves pubescent. *Leaves* coriaceous, ovate, obtuse or subacute, base rounded or cordate, margins slightly undulate or even obscurely distantly serrulate, 6.5 inches long, 4 inches wide; nerves 4-5 pairs, prominent beneath; nervules transverse, conspicuous; reticulations fine, elevate beneath; upper surface smooth, nerves inconspicuous, hairy. *Cymes* subterminal, shorter than the leaves, 1 inch long, 3-branched. *Calyx* (in fruit) shortly broadly cup-shaped, narrowed towards the base, edge obscurely irregularly lobed, and ciliate hairy, coriaceous, .25 inch long, .5 inch wide. *Corolla* not seen. *Fruit* ovoid globose, pulpy, yellow, .75 inch long, crowned with the short subulate style; putamen oblong acute, over .5 inch long, bony, .25 inch through, with 6 ridges, 3 celled, 2 cells large one small.

PAHANG. Pahang river, (*Burn Murdoch*, 186); Tanjong Antan, (*Ridley*, 2158); Kwala Lipis, (*Machado*, 11567).

Burn Murdoch's field note gives this as a climber but the plants I saw on the same river, were small bushy trees. He gives the native name "Sekundai" for it. The plant has been confused with the sea-shore *C. subcordata* Lam., from which, as well as from *C. Myra* (to which it is much more nearly allied) it differs in its pubescence, larger coriaceous leaves and larger yellow fruit, not covered by the dilate corolla.

**Justicia remotifolia** n.sp. (*Acanthaceae*). A tall slender straggling herb, about 2 feet tall with internodes 4 inches long.



*Leaves* remote in equal opposite pairs, ovate, acuminate, base acuminate or rounded, glabrous, thinly coriaceous; nerves 9 pairs in-arching at  $\cdot 1$  from the margin, 3.5 inches long, 1.75-2 inches wide; petiole rather thick,  $\cdot 2$  inch long. *Panicles* axillary and terminal, very slender, 6-8 inches long, with one or two slender lateral branches, with a line of wooly hairs on each side; cymes numerous, remote, of four flowers on a very short  $\cdot 1$  inch peduncle covered with very small linear bracts; pedicels as long as the peduncle. *Calyx*  $\cdot 1$  inch long; lobes linear, setaceous, as long as the short tube, all pubescent. *Corolla* pale-yellow,  $\cdot 35$  inch long; tube cylindric as long as the limb; upper lip short acuminate; lower lip much longer, lobes rounded; palate many veined, pubescent. *Stamens* 2, shorter than the corolla; anther cells short, oblong, obtuse, one below the other, shortly bluntly white tailed.

PAHANG. Temerloh, (*Burn Murdoch*, 175).

A shrub with pale yellow flowers somewhat resembling *J. inconspicua*, Ridl., of Kota Glanggi but with equal pairs of sub-coriaceous leaves of a different shape, and a less branched inflorescence.

***Thismia racemosa*** n.sp. (*Burmanniaceae*). A small leafless saprophyte, 2 inches tall; stems several together, erect, occasionally branched; with numerous roots. *Flowers* 4 to 6 on a raceme, on pedicels half an inch long; bracts persistent, narrow linear acuminate, spreading,  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch long. *Perianth* tube one fourth of an inch long, cylindric, rather stout; limb a quarter of an inch across, with six short triangular ovate blunt lobes, all similar; mouth ring apparently large in proportion to the very small mouth opening. *Fruit*  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch long, semi-globose slightly narrowed at base, and crowned with a short raised edge of the corolla tube.

PAILANG. In low ground near a swamp at Temerloh, (*Burn Murdoch*, 178).

The specimens in the Singapore herbarium are pressed, and I have been unable to make out the form of the stamens, and have no clue to the colour of the flowers: but it is very distinct from any of our species in its branching racemose inflorescence, long narrow acuminate bracts and short blunt lobes of the perianth.

***Pandanus tetradon*** sp. nov. (*Pandanaceae*). A large bushy plant of the habit of *P. fascicularis* Lam., branches at apex an inch through. *Leaves* linear acuminate at least two feet long, an inch across; thorns pale close set (especially at the base) along the edge. *Peduncle* flexuous, 7 inches long, moderately stout, immersed in the leaves. *Syncarp* solitary, obtuse, cylindric, 3.5 inches long, 2.5 inches through. *Fruit*  $\cdot 75$  inch long; apices broad, rounded. *Style* quadrate, flat, broad,  $\cdot 1$  inch long, dark shining brown with three or four short distinct teeth.

SINGAPORE. On the west coast road near Pasir Panjang (*Ridley* 15465).



This in the form of its peculiar style, somewhat resembles *P. stelligera* Ridl., but apart from the difference in foliage and habit of the plant, that species has several syncarps on the inflorescence.

**Calamus caesius** Bl., Rumphia, III. 57, (*Palmae*). The male spadix of this rattan has never been described. Cultivated plants from seed obtained from Sumatra however having recently flowered in the Singapore Botanic Gardens I am able to supply this deficiency. The male spadix is over 2 feet long, with grey thorny spathes. *Branches* of the spadix are decurved, 3 inches long. *Spikes* about 15 in number on each branch, rather remote, about .5 inch long, with about 11 close set distichous flowers. *Spathelules* cup-shaped, with ciliate-lacerate edges. *Calyx lobes* ovate lanceolate, subacute. *Corolla* .1 inch long, lobes oblong blunt.

**Dinebra arabica** Jacq., Fragn. 77 t. 121 i. (*Graminae*). An addition to our flora of which two specimens were collected by Mr. Burkill (No. 358) at Port Swettenham in Selangor in 1913.

This grass which is a native of Africa and India was no doubt introduced recently accidentally.

